

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

*Polynucleotides encoding*

This invention is directed to novel species-specific *P. vivax* malarial peptide antigens which are proteins or fragments of proteins secreted into the plasma of a susceptible mammalian host after infection, and to monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies directed against those antigens. The peptide antigens, monoclonal antibodies, and/or polyclonal antibodies are utilized in assays used to diagnose malaria, as well as to determine whether *Plasmodium vivax* is the species responsible for the infection.